

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 26, 2011
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: SB 442
AUTHOR: R. Calderon

BILL SUMMARY: Hospitals: Interpreters

This bill would require that a general acute care hospital's language assistance policy include procedures for discussing cultural, religious, and spiritual beliefs or practices of the patient. This bill also would require that the hospital's policy ensure meaningful access to translation and interpreter services, and that the hospital review industry standards regarding the proficiency of the translation and interpreter services.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Public Health (DPH) indicates this bill would have minor and absorbable impact on the department, since this bill primarily would impact hospitals.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral with regards to this bill as the fiscal impact to the DPH would be minor and absorbable.

Current law requires licensed general acute care hospitals to meet several requirements related to language assistance for persons with language or communication barriers, including (1) adopting and reviewing annually the hospital's policy for providing language assistance services to patients with language or communication barriers, (2) developing and posting notices in conspicuous locations that advise patients and their families of the availability of interpreters, (3) identifying and recording a patient's primary language on the patient's medical chart, hospital bracelet, bedside notice, or nursing card, (4) notifying employees of the hospital's commitment to provide interpreters to all patients who request them; and (5) preparing and maintaining a list of interpreters who meet required language proficiencies.

This bill would require language assistance services procedures for discussing with the patient any cultural, religious, or spiritual beliefs or practices that may influence care, and increase the ability of hospital staff to understand and respond to the cultural needs of patients. This bill also requires hospitals to ensure that interpreters communicate information about the unique needs of patients to their hospital health care team.

| | | SO | (Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year) | | | | | | |
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| Code/Department | LA | (Dollars in Thousands) | | | | | | | |
| Agency or Revenue | CO | PROP | | | | | | | |
| Type | RV | 98 | FC | 2011-2012 | FC | 2012-2013 | FC | 2013-2014 | Fund Code |
| 4265/PublicHealth | SO | No | | ----- | No/Minor | Fiscal Impact | ----- | | 0890 |
| <u>Fund Code</u> | <u>Title</u> | | | | | | | | |
| 0890 | Trust Fund, Federal | | | | | | | | |

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| Analyst/Principal (0553) B. Nunes | Date | Assistant Program Budget Manager | Date |
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| Department Deputy Director | Date |
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| Governor's Office: | By: | Date: | Position Approved _____ |
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| BILL ANALYSIS | Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff) |
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